

To be effective – please personalize the following and relate to your own circumstances, but mention that you want the tax rate to remain flat and that you support the TAB proposal:

Sample Email to Commissioners

To: BCC-AllCommissioners@pbcgov.org
Subject: Please don't raise our tax rate

Commissioners,

As you begin your final deliberation on the FY2012 county budget, please recognize that many in the community have very little room in their own budgets for a tax increase. With the net rate increase of over 25% in the last two years alone, the county is placing great stress on those with homesteaded property.

The Palm Beach County Taxpayer Action Board (TAB), has made a proposal this year that asks you to maintain the millage at 4.75, take more cuts from the Sheriff than from the county departments, retire the excessive county debt and sell off underutilized property, and cover any remaining shortfall with reserves.

TAB's rationale is based on the bottoming out of valuation decline, the significant savings from FRS reform, and the fact that PBSO has grown from 46% to 59% of the countywide ad-valorem budget in just 8 years. Enough is enough.

I support the TAB proposal and hope that you do too.

Thank You,

XXX

Sample 3 Minute Public Comment

Good evening commissioners, for the record, my name is XXX and I live in YYY.

Over the last 2 years we have seen our county-wide tax rate increase by over 25%, in the midst of a serious recession and with county unemployment in double digits. Please do not raise our tax rate again this year.

I support the TAB proposal this year, to keep the millage at 4.75, take more cuts from the Sheriff than from the county departments, retire the excessive county debt and sell off underutilized property, and use reserves to cover any shortfall.

It is appropriate to ask more of the Sheriff, as PBSO has grown from 46% of the county budget in 2003 to 59% last year, mostly in salary and benefit costs. While law enforcement is a critical function of government, you should not let it crowd out all the other things that are needed.

You got a significant break from Tallahassee this year with pension reform and will save a lot of money. You also are seeing a bottoming-out of declining property values. Both of these things should allow you to tighten your belt in other areas and live with the taxes you will collect at the current rates.

Please don't raise our tax rate.

Thank You.